

NE VALLEY COALITION AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE Steering Committee Meeting Summary December 14, 2006

In attendance: Diane McMillan, Donald Santeo, Gina Durbin, Leslie Reeves, Stephanie Kreiling, Tom Ellis, Jarvis Qumyintewa, MaryEllen Tinsley, Phil Riccio, Kate Zanon.
Facilitators: Brent Stockwell, Karen Kurtz.

Absent: All were present.

I. "Big Picture" Overview Discussion.

Brent Stockwell gave an overview of how the coalition began as part of the Arizona anti-meth initiative. Phase I is focused on building a coalition, conducting a needs assessment and creating a strategic plan. Karen Kurtz gave an overview of the Michael Klitzner material on environmental prevention strategies from the meth conference. The key is to find ways to make it easier for people to do the right thing or harder to do the wrong thing by focusing on populations instead of individuals and proximal causes instead of deep causes. This could be done by making desirable behavior easier, making undesirable behavior harder, rewarding desirable behavior, raising the cost of undesirable behavior, and making the physical environment safer. Phil Riccio had attended the conference and explained how pull tabs on cans were changed so they didn't come off to circumvent the environmental problems caused by litter. He made the distinction between strategies versus programs. Programs focus on changing individuals, strategies focus on changing the environment behavior of the population. It has a greater breadth. Staff agreed to send the Klitzner material to the committee.

The coalition now is an informal organization with administrative responsibilities such as grant management performed by the City of Scottsdale. Some coalitions have eventually developed into their own 501(c)3 organizations or have been adopted by another existing 501(c)3. This is a long term structural issue.

II. Selection of Steering Committee Leadership (Chair, Vice Chair, Recorder)

Brent explained the role of the three steering committee positions: chair, vice chair, and recorder. The chair would manage the meetings, develop the agenda, and act as the spokesperson for the coalition. The vice chair would assist the chair and fill in duties when the chair is not available. The recorder would keep and draft minutes of the meetings for distribution to the committee. Brent asked for volunteers or nominations for any of the three positions. Steering committee members wanted to wait until a later meeting to decide. The selection was tabled until January.

III. Discussion on future Meeting Times, Dates, Topics

Tent. Steering Committee Workshop/Retreat – Thu., Jan. 25, 2007, 9 – noon January/February Meetings?

Brent introduced the option of moving the regular meetings from Thursday morning to later in the day so more people from the community could attend. The option of 5 or 6 pm would allow people to come right after work, but can be difficult because it is the dinner hour. However, if people go home first it is more difficult to get them to come out again. Another option is before work, but this means participants potentially run into rush hour traffic. The group settled on meeting from 4-6 pm. This would allow people to leave work early and go home after the meeting. The committee agreed to try Thursday from 4-6 pm and evaluate if there is a positive impact on participation. The steering committee will meet again in January to plan for the strategic planning process.

IV. Approval to extend Karen Kurtz's facilitator contract until March 31, 2007.

Brent presented the option of extending the facilitator's contract until the end of January so the strategic planning process could be completed. The funds remaining from the first contract would be carried over to the new contract. The steering committee reviewed the draft contract and consented to this extension.

V. Volunteers to attend Statewide Methamphetamine Planning Meeting on Jan. 10-11.

Brent took a count of steering committee members who would be attending the State planning conference in January. All of the members except Kate, Leslie and Gina will be attending. Tom was a possible attendee.

VI. Update on Strategic Planning Training, Dec. 4

Four coalition members attended the strategic planning session in December and found it helpful in outlining specifics or what would be needed to complete the plan. It was especially useful in clarifying the data requirements for the needs assessment. The coalition is on track to complete its strategic plan before the Phase II process begins.